GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1375
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2000
IMPORT OF NEWSPRINT
VAIKO

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

[a] Whether the Government have made some changes in the newsprint import policy; [b] if so, the details thereof; [c] whether the new policy affects the small newspapers and they have represented to the Government to withdraw the new policy; and [d] if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN)

[a] & [b] The present import policy of newsprint was announced on 29.01.97 through Notification No. 22(RE-96)/92-97.As per the present policy import of news print is permitted without an import licence subject to actual user condition to those who hold a `Certificate for Entitlement to Import Newsprint` issued by the Registrar of Newspapers for India, Government of India, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, New Delhi.
[c] & [d] Government has received a representation from the Small News Papers Editors and Sellers Association, Chennai regarding amendment to the present import policy for news print. The Association has demanded that:
(i). Import of Newsprint should be canalised through State Trading Corporation [STC] as was prevalent up to 91-92;
(ii). A subsidy of Rs. 2,OOO per M.T. to small newspapers may be sanctioned; and
(iii). 2OO M.T. of imported newsprint be allocated from STC to Small Newspapers, as per policy prevalent up to 1991-92.
In view of India`s International commitments, it would not be possible to reintroduce canalisation through STC for import of newsprint.